(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Airports Authority of India have neither information about commencement of these works nor its subsequent abandonment.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Schemes for development of tourism by Darjeeling Gorkha hill council

6842. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any major scheme for the development of tourism from the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken steps to allot necessary funds as asked for; and

(d) if so the amount of such funds released so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) On the basis of complete and eligible proposals received from the State Government, Central financial assistance was sanctioned in respect of the following project/ schemes during the last three years:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Scheme	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1992-93		
1. Augmentation of facilities at Mainak Tourist Lodge, Siliguri .	29.00	14.50
1993-94		
1. Construction of wayside facility at Pashupati	24.14	5.00
1994-95		
1. Tea and Tourism Festival 1993	04.28	4.28
2. Production of Video film on Darjeeling	02.00	2.00

Development of Heritage tourism in Himachal Pradesh

6843. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the concept of heritage toursim has been accepted by all the States in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the States where his concept has been adopted;

(c) whether Himachal Pradesh is one of them; and

(d) if so, the details of the plan being drawn up for the development of this concept in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) India has several attractions in the field of tourism such as culture, monuments, fairs and festivals, art and crafts, etc. All these form part of our great national

heritage and are promoted as tourist attractions by all States including Himachal Pradesh.

To promote our Heritage, a new concept of Heritage Hotels was evolved in National Action Plan for Tourism 1992. This has become very popular in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Government has approved five Heritage Hotel projects consisting of 75 rooms in Himachal Pradesh.

Modernisation of airports with the asistance of foreign agencies

6844. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed agreemens with the foreign agencies for financial assistance to increase the facilities at airports and also to modernise them;

(b) if so, the names of such foreign organisations/agencies;

(c) the names of airports which are proposed to be modernisd under these agreements; and

(d) the facilities which are proposed to be provided in these airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) The Government has not signed any such agreement with any foreign agency.

Increase in foreign tourist arrivals

6845. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whther there has been a major breakthrough in foreign tourist arrivals during the last ten months;

(b) if so, whether January, 1994 registered the highest ever tourist arrivals;

(c) the average percentage increase therein as compared to the last year;

(d) whether Governmenht are expecting further rise in the arrivals of foreign tourists in the coming years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) December, 1994 registered the highest ever tourist arrivals for a single month. The details of tourist arrivals during the period from January 1993 to April 1995 are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below)

(d) and (e) The tourist arrivals registered a positive growth of 3.8 percent during the first four months of 1995. This positive trend in Tourist arrivals is expected to continue during the coming year.

Statement

Foreign Tourist arrivals during 1993, 1994 *and January to April* 1995 *(including the National of Pakistan and Bangladesh*

Month	Tourist Arrivals 1993	1994	1995	Percentage 1994/93	Change 1995/94
1		2	3	4	
January	1,50,09	1,92,551	1,97,343	28.4	2.5
Febuary	1,449,68	1.72,642	1,87,614	15.3	8.7
March	1,46,191	1,87,129	1,88,252	28.0	0.6
April	1.18,200	1,42,501	1,47,855(P)	20.6	3.8
May	1,03,371	1,20,183	..	16.3	..